

My Ancestry

THOMAS L. RHOADS

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MY ANCESTRY

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By

THOMAS L. RHOADS

Boyertown, Pa.

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To

KATE E. GRIM

my sisterly cousin
whose good works
are myriad.

Grim - \$3.50

PREFACE

When the writer had advanced to the Western meridian in years he decided on the seemingly appropriate occupation of delving into the ancestral past to find out of what stuff he was made,—what was the character of forbears through generations back, what their spiritual standards and the pattern of their lives, and what the genetic promises for accomplishment they held out to their descendants.

Based on these biologic expectations it was planned to set down in plus and minus columns his own hits and misses, giving due consideration for greater latter-day opportunities and better environments; but it was

soon found the plusses were so regrettably scant that the plan was given up. The inspired ancestors set an exceptionally fast pace following high standards in their serious pioneering to help build up this country to the haven it is today. The writer had to be satisfied then with the agreeable task of recording who the ancestors were, from such data as was obtainable.

It was gratifying to learn that all the forebears were common people,—common as opposed to a specious and parasitic royalty, throned and unthroned, and of whatever economic status; common in the sense of reliant helpfulness and productive usefulness. Among them are found true aristocrats in industrious effort for the general welfare and service to communities. They left a fine heritage.

A sturdy line of coopers, weavers, millers, sawyers, and husbandmen, with occasional innkeepers, merchants, soldiers, and professional men, all with capable helpmeets, such as form the warp and woof in the durable fabric of our national life.

I

RHOADS ANCESTRY IN EUROPE

JACOB ROTH

On 10 February 1618, Jacob Roth, a cooper, married Anna Maria Schifflin, daughter of Cornely Schifflin, in the Evangelical Church at Bonfeld, near Heilbronn, in Wurttemberg, Germany. Bonfeld is a village of somewhat over a thousand inhabitants that dates back to Roman times when this territory

NOTE: The data pertaining to the ancestors in Wurttemberg, Germany, was obtained through the aid of Dr. William J. Hinke, Professor at Auburn Theological Seminary, Auburn, New York.

was conquered and garrisoned by Caesar's Legions in the first century A. D., vestiges of which occupation remain in evidence, but the earliest inscription on a tombstone in its church cemetery, still existing in 1938, is dated 1301. The Church Records, however, date only to 1607.

Bonfeld lies in a hilly country, somewhat like the Oley Hills of Berks County, Pennsylvania, with wooded hills interspersed with highly cultivated fertile valleys, between the Neckar and the Rhine rivers. It is located on an elevation about 8 km. west of the Neckar and 45 km. east of the Rhine, the Neckar river flowing northwest past Heidelberg and entering the Rhine near Mannheim. (A kilometer is about five-eighths of a mile.) The village is on 49 degrees N latitude, which corresponds to about the northern part of Minnesota, but the climate is more like that of southeastern Pennsylvania. The buildings

are of sturdy permanent construction, bordering hard-surfaced streets, and the large castle, and the near-by imposing old church with its fine allegorical murals and its organ installed in 1723, face a tree-shaded park in the middle of the village. Many similar villages and towns dot the surrounding country at near intervals for the area is thickly populated, and is highly productive both agriculturally and industrially.

Jacob Roth died sometime before 1652, the year a son, Hans Ernst Roth, was married according to the Church records. The date of birth of Jacob Roth is not recorded, but considering that he had reached man's estate (21) at the time of his marriage and assuming that Hans Ernst Roth was his first child, it would date his birth as about 1597.

II

HANS ERNST ROTH

Hans Ernst Roth, a son of Jacob Roth and his wife Anna Maria, was born 25 February 1622, at Bonfeld, and was baptized on 26 February 1622. He was married on 24 February 1652, on the feast of St. Matthias, at Bonfeld, to Magdalena Weyher, who was born 11 May 1629, at Wimpfen, a village on the mount between Bonfeld and Heilbronn. Her parents were Hans Weyher and his wife Catherina (who was born at Ohrenbach) who were married at Wimpfen on 13 May 1628 and lived there throughout their married lives. Hans Weyher died 28 Decem-

ber 1640, at Wimpfen. Hans Ernst Roth was an Assessor at the Court according to the Church records. Date of death of Hans Ernst Roth is uncertain as the records are defective in this regard; his wife Magdalena Roth died 7 April 1682 at Bonfeld.

III

JOHANN JACOB ROTH

Johann Jacob Roth, son of Hans Ernst Roth and his wife Magdalena, was baptized in the Evangelical Church at Bonfeld on 27 November 1657 and although there is no birth date recorded he probably was born within a few days before that date, as it was customary to baptize children within a few days after birth. He married Elizabeth von Senn, from Switzerland, on 5 June 1683, at Bonfeld, after the customary threefold proclamation. Immigration from Switzerland into Wurttemberg was prevalent at that time and was noted in the neighboring congrega-

tions as well as at Bonfeld. Dates of deaths not recorded, but Johann Jacob Roth died sometime before 1707, the year his son Johann Jacob Roth (Jr.) was married, for the Marriage Register of the church at Bonfeld in recording the marriage refers to the younger Johann Jacob as "the son of the late Johann Jacob Roth."

Children (all born at Bonfeld):

	<i>Born</i>	<i>Baptized</i>
Johann Jacob (Jr.)	1685 –	1685
	<i>(day and month illegible)</i>	
Anna Elizabetha	25 Jan. 1686 –	27 Jan. 1686
Johann Balthaser	17 Nov. 1687 –	17 Nov. 1687
Hans Jerg	20 Jan. 1691 –	27 Jan. 1691
Matthias	22 Feb. 1693 –	22 Feb. 1693

Of these children Johann Balthaser and Hans Jerg both died in 1695, presumably from some infectious disease of childhood.

IV

JOHANN JACOB ROTH (JR.)

Note: The "Jr." is added to distinguish him from his father of the same name.

Johann Jacob Roth (Jr.), eldest son of Johann Jacob Roth (b. 1657) and his wife Elizabeth, was born at Bonfeld in 1685, and by occupation was a linen weaver in his native village. He was married, after the customary threefold proclamation, to Maria Barbara Weber on 8 November 1707, at Gelmersbach, who was born there on 7 June 1677. Her parents were Michael Weber and Ursula, nee Ziegler. The Evangelical congregation at Gelmersbach is part of the dio-

cese of Eberstadt, which town lies east of the Neckar and about 18 km. from Bonfeld which latter lies on the west of the river.

Michael Weber, father of Maria Barbara, was a linen weaver and an attorney at Gelmersbach. He was born on 28 April 1641 at Unterheimbach and died at Gelmersbach on 17 February 1722. His parents were Michael Weber who was born in 1613 and died at Unterheimbach 2 February 1679, and Margaret his wife. Ursula Ziegler Weber, wife of Michael Weber, and mother of Maria Barbara, was born 21 April 1646, at Gelmersbach, and died there 16 August 1716. Michael Weber and Ursula Ziegler were married on 16 January 1666 and lived at Gelmersbach throughout their married lives. Ursula's parents were Hans Ziegler, a citizen of Gelmersbach, who was born in 1605 and died at Maulach, a village sixty km. directly east of Heilbronn, on 1 April 1662, and

Apollonia his wife who was born in 1611 and died at Gelmersbach on 26 January 1691.

Children of Johann Jacob Roth (Jr.) (b. 1685) and Maria Barbara Roth (all children born at Bonfeld):

	<i>Born</i>	<i>Baptized</i>
Johann Konrad	13 Nov. 1708 –	14 Nov. 1708
Johann Jacob	8 Oct. 1711 –	8 Oct. 1711
Helena Maria	24 Jan. 1715 –	26 Jan. 1715
Helena Maria died 5 Aug. 1716		

At the end of the first volume of the Church Record at Bonfeld is the following entry:

Anno 1717 there emigrated (here follow the names of the emigrees, among them):

“Joh. Jacob Roth with his wife and two children and sister.”

The two children accompanying the emigrant couple Johann Jacob Roth (Jr.) and his wife Maria Barbara were Johann Konrad, born 1708, who was then nine years of age, and Johann Jacob, born 1711, who was then six years of age, as the only other child, a

daughter, Helena, had died in infancy. The sister mentioned undoubtedly was Anna Elizabetha Roth, born 1686, who was the only sister of Johann Jacob Roth (Jr.). She was thirty-one years of age at the time of emigration, while her brother Johann Jacob Roth (Jr.) was thirty-two.

V

We must now turn to America for further record, but before doing so it may be well to consider the reasons that led Johann Jacob Roth (Jr.) and his family, together with numerous other Germans of that era, to give up their homes and lands in Europe and emigrate to America. A number of provoking causes leading to such decision appear when conditions existing in the districts bordering on the Rhine, the Neckar, and the Main rivers are reviewed as they were during the latter part of the seventeenth and in the early part of the eighteenth centuries.

The Thirty Years War had been fought to a finish but it had left the districts in southwestern Germany totally devastated. This war was waged by King Louis XIV of France, in his desire to head a world-wide Holy Roman Empire, against the Protestant Princes, especially those of Germany, to wipe out Protestantism in Europe. The German Empire at this time was a confederation of principalities or districts, with the various rulers known as Electors, and the majority of the Princes were Protestant. The religion of the rulers customarily became the religion of their subjects. The Protestant religions were Lutheran and Calvinist (Reformed). The result of the war was that Protestantism had won the fight for freedom in religious worship but the country roundabout was ravaged to bareness.

The inhabitants of the war-torn areas, particularly along the Rhine and the Neckar, had about recovered from the effects of this

war when in 1688 the French again ruthlessly devastated their land, demolishing homes and burning cities and villages, as they had also done during the interval of peace in 1674, on the pretext of preventing an invasion of France. Soon came a new war by Louis XIV to establish his choice of Archbishop in the district of the Palatinate at Cologne, and the land was invaded again. Then came the War of the Spanish Succession in 1700, when King Louis decided to put his grandson Philip on the throne of Spain to succeed the Spanish King Charles II who had died childless. This war lasted until 1713, involving England, Holland and Prussia and their several Protestant allies, against France and the Catholic Electors of Bavaria and Cologne; and the Palatinate, Wurttemberg and adjoining districts again became war-harassed territory. During its progress the French plundered the land, and forced requisitions of money and supplies, and at

times enlistments, from the inhabitants. These frequent wars and invasions wiped out the efforts of the inhabitants to rehabilitate themselves during peaceful periods, so that prosperity was always shortlived and the people became more and more discouraged.

Coincident with these ravages to their land and homes, the inhabitants of the war-ridden territory were saddled with taxes by their rulers to pay for the wars, as they also had been called upon to supply men to do the fighting. The tax burden had to be met by a decimated population due to wars' losses.

On top of all these discouragements the Electors of Germany, having become enamored with the splendors of Versailles as displayed by the French King, decided to emulate him by building their own luxurious palaces, e. g. the one at Potsdam. The cost of this magnificence was to be borne by the subjects, which added to burdens that became well-nigh unbearable.

About this time the propaganda that had been instituted by William Penn to advertise his colony in America and secure colonists for land development in the new country was reaching its full force. The Rhineland and neighboring areas were flooded with alluring pamphlets describing the advantages of the new country and the glowing chances for individual betterment. Penn had had previous contact with these people by personal visits and knew their responsible worth, and was especially anxious to establish them in his colony as permanent settlers. English agents were sent throughout the Rhenish and neighboring districts to convince the people of the benefits they might expect. Books on the subject were published for German consumption, and encouraging messages from early settlers in America were spread broadcast in Germany. In this campaign Penn was fortuitously aided by the English government's policy of colonial development. The

result of this propaganda, and the conditions existing in Germany at the time, was an outpouring of emigrants from areas along both sides of the Rhine and its tributaries. This exodus from Germany to America kept up for years and reached its height some fifty years later (1764).

It does not appear that religious persecution by rulers over their subjects in Germany, such as has been heard frequently in past years, had much weight, if any, in causing the exodus from the Rhineland, certainly not in its application to the Palatinate and Wurttemberg. The Elector of Wurttemberg was a Lutheran and his subjects were avowedly of this faith. The Elector of the Palatinate was a Catholic, but tolerant, and many of his subjects were Protestant. This tolerance by the Elector may have been influenced to some extent by his treaty alliance, as part of the German Empire, with the Protestant King of England. The Elector would have

exercised poor policy in affronting his Protestant ally by maltreating his own Protestant subjects. Their friendly relations were such in fact that the Elector was supplying Palatine troops for English use, eleven battalions of such troops being used by the English King in Catalonia in 1709. Leastways I have not found any condemnatory reports in authoritative historical writings on this score. There are records of certain religious difficulties between different sects in the several Principalities, but no valid complaint of intolerance against rulers. There were religious quarrels, as is common with all creeds in their zealous dissent for supremacy while disregardful of their common objective in attainment, but no authentic evidence of persecution. Also it is noted in the records of emigrants from the Rhineland to America in 1709-1712 (Knittle) that some of the lists of emigrees included almost as many Catholics as there were Lutherans or Re-

formed. This would appear to be conclusive against any claim of religious persecution as a cause for emigration. There were other and sufficient reasons that impelled these Germans to leave a place of constant strife and discouragement for a promised land of peace and security for their homes.

I am inclined to believe there was a temptation among some of the earlier writers, who exploited religious persecution as a cause of emigration, to add the romance of religious martyrdom to the severe hardships experienced by the colonists on their long travel to America, with its delayed passage down the Rhine which usually required six weeks to clear the river; the long wait in England on scant food in bare camps where they were often robbed by agents and decimated by sickness; and then the trying ocean trip in crowded small sailing ships where passengers were herded like cattle, and where births

and deaths were not uncommon incidents of a rough passage, to their destination in a new and virgin land that called for resources in its development which in many instances were wanting. It is conceivable that such a situation with the added frequent molestations by Indians in the new country dampened the ardor of pioneering; and that disillusionment in some instances led to ready acceptance and even perpetuation of the persecution myth as a cause for their coming.

VI

For the present this writing will be limited to a record of Matthias Roth, my ancestor, and his descendants. It will be seen that Matthias Roth arrived in America on the same ship as did Johann Jacob Roth (Jr.) and his family sailing from Europe. Research has not as yet been extended into the lives of the other members of Johann Jacob Roth (Jr.)'s family. It is known definitely however that the two children of Johann Jacob Roth (Jr.) heretofore mentioned, namely Johann Konrad and Johann Jacob, sometime later were settlers in the Oley Hills. Johann Konrad in 1748 was the owner of a

considerable acreage of land above Gabels-ville in Colebrookdale Township, but which is now in Earl Township (erected in 1781), which land now comprises four separate farms. He contributed soldier sons to General Washington's Army during the Revolution. Tracing the activities of Johann Jacob proved more of a mystery until my attention was drawn to an entry in the Saucon Lutheran Church Records in Lehigh County (county erected in 1812) which gave the solution. (St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the Saucon District of Lehigh County, also known as "Blue Church" because of its painted color, congregation organized and first log Church built in 1739. Church records started same year).

"Marriage record."

"1758, Sept. 8. George Stolze, widower, and Anna Elizabeth Roth, widow of Jacob Roth who had been killed by the Indians beyond the Blue Mountains."

History records that the Indians were unusually active during the decade beginning 1750 in venting their resentment against dispossession of their lands through regretted treaties, and were incited to sanguinary action by Old World contenders for authority in the colonies. A fierce attitude of tribal grievance and retaliation was instituted at this time marked by inroads of marauding bands in the region of the Blue Mountains, which raids on white settlers were particularly bloodthirsty after the defeat of Braddock near Fort Duquesne in 1755. It was in this period that Johann Jacob Roth fell a victim to Indian ferocity.

Note: The vast area beyond the Blue Mountains was recognized as Indian territory and hunting grounds where there was an abundance of deer, bear, and at times buffalo. In this territory were scattered numerous villages of the various tribes of

the several Indian Nations. This little-known territory was designated on the Evans map of Pennsylvania, made in 1749, as "Wilderness and Endless Mountains." After Braddock's defeat by the French and Indians, and the depredations by the Indians on the settlements south of the Blue Mountains had become more frequent and more ferocious, leaving their bloody trail through the Oley Hills, a score of log forts composed of stockades and blockhouses were built on elevations near water at the passes through the Blue Mountains, some of the forts on both sides of the ridge, to protect the settlers. These forts, in the manner of all forts however elaborate, proved deterrent but not prohibitive to Indian foray. They also served as assembly points for the settlers when punitive expeditions were organized against the Indians. It is likely that Johann Jacob Roth was on such expedition.

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VII

RHOADS ANCESTRY
IN AMERICA

From data on Church Records, old Deeds, Tax Lists, State Archives, and writings on Local history; from the personal records of Dr. R. B. Rhoads; from the records of my father, Dr. Thos. J. B. Rhoads; and from personal recollection.

JACOB ROTH

An entry in the first volume of the Hill Church Records, in Berks County, Pennsylvania, made in 1741, is as follows (translated from German):

“Members of the Congregation:

5. Matthias Roth born 1717 during voyage to America. Father: Jacob Roth from Bonnfeld, Germany. Came to America in 1717 and died about Christmas 17— (date defective). His wife Barbara still living 18 Jan. 1741.

Candlemas, Matthias married Mary (Anna) Elizabeth, daughter of John Philip Beyer, who came to America in 1724 from Ipstein, Germany. Mary (Anna) Elizabeth still living.”

Note: The parenthetical remarks in the quoted record are mine.

This is the only record I have been able to find referring to the arrival of Johann

Jacob Roth (Jr.) and his wife Maria Barbara in America. In the church records "Johann" is dropped from Jacob's name, and "Maria" is dropped from Barbara's name.

Note: The Hill Church congregation had its beginning in 1704 when meetings were held in the homes of the settlers in the Oley Hills, but it was not until 1741 that the Lutherans in the vicinity took up fifty acres of land for school and church purposes and built a log church in then Colebrookdale Township (township erected in 1741) Philadelphia County (now Pike Township, erected in 1812, Berks County, county erected in 1752). A log school house was built in 1750, and in 1786 the church was rebuilt of stone as a Union Church, Lutheran and Reformed. The church records date from 1741. Supply pastors served the congregation in its earlier years, the first pastor being Rev. Daniel Falckner in 1704.

There are apparently no ships' lists extant of the Germans who sailed for America in 1717, or at least no such lists have been discovered to date, although it is recorded in Colonial Records, Vol. III, page 29, that three vessels carrying Palatines from London reached Philadelphia in 1717, and mention is made of the ships' Captains, giving their names, and the number of Palatines on each ship.

Note: As Palatines were in preponderance among the Germans emigrating to America, all German immigrants are generally classed as Palatines by historians, even though large numbers came from other districts than the Palatinate, such as Wurttemberg, Saxony, etc.

I have been unable to find where Jacob Roth and his family settled after their arrival at Philadelphia. I have searched through the Old Patents and Deed Books at the Philadel-

phia Court House, as well as at Reading and at Harrisburg, Penna., for evidence of land ownership. Also I have gone over the old Church Records of Hill Church, New Hanover (Swamp), Trappe, Molattan, and Old Goshenhoppen, but none of these retained records antedate 1741, and Jacob Roth died before that year according to the Hill Church entry. The early records of Amity Church unfortunately were destroyed in the storm of 1920 that razed the church, which precluded the possibility of investigation there. The tomb-stones in the cemeteries of these churches have likewise yielded no information. However a possible clue exists in the old section of the cemetery at Hill Church, where two roughhewn granite markers stand, evidencing many years of weathering, each inscribed only with the name "Roth." This clue is however merely a surmise and offers no incentive to its further investigation; for even if excavation were considered in seek-

ing information the effort would be futile as a name plate, if any, on a casket buried for two centuries would long since have corroded to indecipherability, just as the remains by this time would have turned to dust.

Jacob Roth being a linen weaver, it is possible that after landing at Philadelphia he secured employment as such in that city, or in neighboring Germantown (established in 1694). It is more probable, and to this view I am inclined, that he journeyed with other immigrants of that period to the outlying country north and west of the city in which directions land was rapidly being taken up and homes established, particularly in the inviting region of the Oley Hills.

Note: Oley Hills comprised a considerable area as shown on the earlier maps. This area extended from Reading and Alsace on the west toward the east into what is now Lehigh County, and from the south near the present Montgomery County line on which

Boyertown, Berks County is located, to the present Longswamp Township in the north. The area should not be confused with the present Oley Township in Berks County, a much smaller area.

It should be remembered that within a short time after Penn established his colony and laid out Philadelphia in 1682, land was taken up rapidly by patents as far north along the Schuylkill river as the Perquamink (Perkiomen) creek and for some distance beyond, and from the Delaware river on the east to Brandywine creek on the west. In all probability some of these allotments were made by Penn before he sailed for America. By 1694, when a colony of Palatines under Pastorius established Germantown there was rapid expansion to the north and west of Philadelphia by land seekers. From then on there were arrivals of colonists at frequent intervals, who spread out to take up lands that were available beyond those already oc-

cupied. Although some of these newcomers may have tarried in Philadelphia and vicinity, a goodly proportion must have moved onward through Trappe and New Hanover to the north and west to the Oley Hills and Goshenhoppen, for at the beginning of the eighteenth century we find quite a number of taxables with German names listed in these areas. Then came a large number of Palatines (some authorities say 15,000) who landed in New York from 1709 to 1712, and spread along the Hudson, having been induced to locate there to make ships' stores (tar, etc.) for England, but many of whom, after disappointment with arrangements for them and the failure of the project, found their way down the east branch of the Susquehanna river and up Swatara Creek to Tulpehocken and the Oley hills. Other settlers from Germantown also came up along the Schuylkill river and Manatawny creek and along the Perkiomen creek and Swamp creek, in 1712,

to locate in the Oley hills. By 1714 German Settlers occupied land sixty miles west of Philadelphia and some fifty miles north of the city. Then in 1717 came the group of German Colonists from Wurttemberg and the Palatinate headed by Rev. Anthony Jacob Henckel, landing at Philadelphia in the fall of the year. In all probability Jacob Roth and his family were on one of these ships. Of necessity as well as by preference, this group went to localities available for settlement and suited to their purpose. One can understand then why they journeyed to that section of Philadelphia county known as the Oley hills, a section in which the Hill Church congregation had already been organized for over ten years.

It is likely too that the rolling hills with their level valley tracts waiting to be cleared, appealed to them as not unlike the topography of the home land from which they came; also the similarity of a climate to which

they were accustomed; and the character of the soil must have attracted them, composed as it was of the older sedimentary and igneous gneisses, evidencing and assuring good productivity. All these reasons lead me to believe it to be more than likely that Jacob Roth and his family settled somewhere in the environment of the Oley Hills, the region in which his sons became identified, but definite finding awaits future disclosure.

VIII

MATTHIAS ROTH

Matthias Roth, son of Jacob and Barbara Roth, as before stated, was born at sea on 8 November 1717 during the voyage to America (Hill Church Records). In the absence of definite information as to where his parents settled after their arrival at Philadelphia it is not possible to record facts concerning his early life. He was a member of the Hill Church Lutheran congregation in 1741 so presumably his early years were spent somewhere in the Oley Hills. He married Anna Elizabeth Beyer, daughter of John Philip Beyer and Maria Elizabeth Beyer, on Candle-

mas, 1741 (Hill Church Records). John Philip Beyer and his wife Maria Elizabeth came to America from Epstein, Germany, in 1724 and settled in Frederick Township, but soon moved to Oley Township, and then to Amity Township (Will Book K, page 79, Philadelphia Court House). Philip Beyer was buried at Oley 7 May 1753 (New Hanover Lutheran Church Records).

Note: The Hill Church Records (1741) refer to the wife of Matthias Roth as "Mary" Elizabeth, which appears to be an error of entry, as on a deed written on 31 October 1786 whereby Matthias Roth transferred certain property to his son Jonathan, the name of Matthias Roth's wife is inscribed several times in this instrument as Anna Elizabeth, and she so signs it. Also in Matthias Roth's will, written 14 November 1786, with attached codicil written 28 December 1794, his wife's name is mentioned fourteen times as

Anna Elizabeth. It is supposed the Pastor making the entry on the Church Record confused the daughter's name with that of her mother, whose name was Maria Elizabeth. Also the name "Ipstein", in Germany, from which place John Philip Beyer came, according to the entry in the Church Records, should be Epstein. It has been my observation, in perusing Church Records, that the Pastors making the entries were frequently poor penmen as well as poor spellers, and at times indifferent as to legibility of writing. This is probably to be expected in view of the restricted educational opportunities of earlier years, and the meagre facilities offered, *e. g.*, worn quills, indifferent paper, and varieties of homemade ink were poor equipment for clear writing. The Pastors were also given to the frequent use of abbreviations which are at times difficult to interpret. However, I am thankful for the records they have left, even such as they are.

Matthias Roth and his wife Anna Elizabeth settled in Colebrookdale Township on land which they cleared and farmed, at the site which is now part of Morysville. His first home, a log house, was built over a spring, still running, in the field off the Reading road at Morysville, south of the intersecting road to Pottstown. The practice of building a home over a spring was to insure a water supply in case of attack or siege by Indians,—a precaution commonly observed by the early settlers. The location was pointed out to me by my father, from information handed down through his parents.

Matthias Roth and his brother Johann Konrad Roth, as "Inhabitants of Colebrook Dale," then in Philadelphia County, were among the fifteen petitioners who applied to the Justices of the Peace at the Court of Quarter Sessions at Philadelphia on 17 September 1741, for the erection of a new town-

ship to be known as "Colebrook Dale Township." The purpose as stated in the petition was to correct existing disadvantages in the matter of roads and highways, particularly as to their boundaries, and in the care of the poor. The petition received favorable consideration and the township was erected in the same year. (Draft and accompanying petition at the Historical Society of Berks County, Reading.)

Matthias Roth was a taxable of Colebrookdale Township in 1760. He was assessed at ten pounds and paid fifteen shillings tax for that year. There are no tax lists earlier than that date on file in the Tax Commissioner's office.

On 6 December 1772, Matthias Roth bought the old Colebrookdale furnace tract from Thomas Rutter and his wife Martha, and from Samuel Potts and his wife Joanna, for thirteen hundred and twenty-five pounds, a messuage and a furnace, containing in all

two hundred and twenty acres and fifty-one perches, and the use of Ironstone creek adjacent to the land of Henry Stauffer "and freely flowing into the dam and race formerly used for blasting the furnace" (Reading Court House Deed Book B-1 page 354, Rutter and Potts to Matthias Roth). It appears this tract was part of the land granted by patent to David Powell (vide Patent A Vol. 5 page 377) and on 4 June 1719 sold by him to Thomas Rutter, grandfather of the Thomas Rutter who sold the land to Matthias Roth.

Note: Colebrookdale Furnace, founded in 1720 by Thomas Rutter, and abandoned in 1765, was the first furnace in Pennsylvania. It stood diagonally south across the street from the Grist Mill still standing at Morysville, at the southeastern corner of the present alley. It supplied Poole Forge, Pine Forge, Glasgow Forge, and Spring Forge. The principal casting products of the Colebrookdale Furnace besides pig iron were

jamb stoves and ornamental stove plates, so popular with the Colonists in the early days but now long since forgotten. The construction and decoration of these stoves and plates was done entirely by Pennsylvania Germans. The owners of furnaces in the Colonies were generally English, but they knew little or nothing about stove making while the Germans were skilled artisans in this craft.

Matthias Roth later built and operated a grist mill and a saw mill near the dam that had been constructed to supply water for the Colebrookdale Furnace. During the Revolutionary War this grist mill ground grain which was collected by Continental wagon brigades for the soldiers of Washington's army and for the encampment at Valley Forge, according to family tradition. Matthias and his family at this time evidently lived in a house already constructed on this property, for in his will, among other pro-

visions, he leaves the dwelling house to his wife, "which was erected by Thomas Potts."

Note: The dam was enlarged about 1870 by Jacob Mory and Aaron Mory who became the owners of the mill property in 1848 by purchase from Mathias Ritter, who had bought the property from Jonathan Rhoads, son of Matthias Roth. Mathias Ritter married Catherine Rhoads, daughter of Jonathan, 13 March 1808. At the time the dam was enlarged in 1870, excavation uncovered some three hundred tons of iron ore screenings which were removed and sold to the Warwick Furnace at Pottstown for \$3.25 per ton. The screenings were remnants of the old Colebrookdale Furnace and likely could not be used because the furnace did not have enough blast. The ore for the furnace came from the old Phoenix mine (also called California mine) in Boyertown. This information furnished by Allen D. Mory, son

of Jacob Mory, in September 1933. Allen Mory died in 1935, aged 82.

At Matthias Roth's death on 13 March 1795, aged 78 years 7 months, his farm was divided between his two living sons, Jonathan and Solomon. It appears that Jonathan had previously secured his part of the farm by purchase from his father, according to a deed written on 31 October 1786, and recorded 6 April 1795 (Reading Court House, Deed Book A, No. 14, page 289). This deed states that Matthias Roth, yeoman, and Anna Elizabeth his wife, sold to Jonathan Roth, a son and a miller, for three hundred and fifty pounds, a grist mill, saw mill, and two tracts of land, in Colebrookdale Township and part in Douglass Township (which land in part was bought by Thomas Rutter by patent on 20 February 1767, as recorded in Philadelphia Patent Book AA Vol. 8, page 183). The deed further states that the land sold to Jonathan Roth in Colebrookdale Town-

ship adjoined the land granted or to be granted to Solomon Roth, and the land of Henry Kabel (Gabel), Henry Stauffer, Jonathan Roth, George Dengler, and Michael Stapholet, containing sixty acres eighty-five perches, being part of the two hundred and twenty acres and fifty-one perches which Thomas Rutter and his wife Martha, and Samuel Potts and his wife Joanna, sold to Matthias Roth on 6 December 1772; the part in Douglass Township containing forty-five and one-half acres bordered on the land of Henry Kabel, Thomas Rutter, and the land granted or to be granted to Solomon Roth. From this it appears that Jonathan Roth had purchased approximately one-half of his father's original farm in 1786, the part which was willed to him in 1795, and that at the time of its purchase Jonathan was already a land owner in the vicinity.

I can find no definite record as to the place of burial of Matthias Roth. Dr. R. B.

Rhoads in his personal records believed he was buried at Amity Cemetery (Congregation Graveyard provided in 1742, first log Church built in 1753), and based on this conviction had an old tombstone in the cemetery renovated and recut. The name on this stone is however that of Matheus Roth, who arrived in America in 1764 and has no known family connection. Dr. R. B. Rhoads apparently did not know of the entry made in the Hill Church Records in 1741. Matthias Roth however in all probability was buried at Amity, as an entry in my father's records states: "Anna Elizabeth Roth (widow of Matthias) died about 14 November 1809. She was buried on the same day that Catherine Roth, a daughter of Jacob Roth (who was a son of Jonathan) was buried at Amityville." Matthias may have joined the Amity Church congregation about 1753 when the first church was built there, as attendance

there involved less arduous travel over a stage road, than the trip to Hill Church over hilly byroads, and the distances were about the same. There is no entry concerning his family in the Hill Church Records after 1751, up to which year the births of five of his children were recorded; there were two children born after that date,—Anna Elizabeth in 1753 and Solomon in 1757. These last two children may have been entered on the Church Records at Amity, but those Records no longer exist to give confirmation.

Children of Matthias and Anna Elizabeth Roth: Catherine, Mary Barbara, John (died in infancy), John (2nd), Jonathan, Elizabeth, Solomon. Jonathan was my great-grandfather.

Information relative dates of birth of the first five children is from the Hill Church Records:

Catherine	born 13 Apr. 1743
Mary Barbara	born 25 Dec. 1745
John (died in infancy)	born 1746
John	born 13 Jun. 1748
Jonathan	born 8 Mar. 1751

This record was probably made in 1751. Two other children born after this date are not mentioned in the above record:

Elizabeth	born 1753
Solomon	born 1757

IX

I will here insert what I know of Matthias Roth's other children and their descendants before considering Jonathan, my ancestor.

Catherine (b. 1743), daughter of Matthias Roth and his wife Anna Elizabeth, married Thomas Wilson of Pottsgrove (now Pottstown). They lived on a farm above Gabelsville which farm was later part of the Latshaw tract and is now part of the Funk Fruit Farms. Thomas Wilson had inherited 100 acres from his father, Thomas Wilson (Will book 1, page 150, Berks County Court House, recorded 1 February 1764), who had bought the land from Thomas Potts (Philadelphia

Court House, Book H, Vol. 4, page 364), who had bought the land from Gerhart Henckel, son of Rev. Anthony Jacob Henckel (Philadelphia Book F, Vol. 9, page 281), the original purchase having been made by Gerhart Henckel on 9 May 1728.

Thomas Wilson and his wife Catherine had seven children:

Mary married Daniel Mowrer, of Montgomery County; Heinrich lived in Lower Providence, Montgomery County; Elizabeth married George Bair, of New Jersey; John moved to Harrison County, Ohio; Maria married Benneville Bertolet of Reading; Joseph moved to Jefferson County, Ohio; and Jacob who had a daughter named Elizabeth, the only record I was able to find concerning him.

Mary Barbara (b. 1745), daughter of Matthias Roth and his wife Anna Elizabeth, married Peter Yerger. They had two sons, David and George. David Yerger had two

daughters, and one son named Frederick. One of the daughters married a Hallman who lived at Limerick, the other married a Custer. George Yerger had four sons, Michael, Jacob, John, and Jonas, and one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Jonas Roshong.

John (b. 1748), son of Matthias Roth and his wife Anna Elizabeth, died in youth, in 1766. It is noted there were two Johns, one (b. 1746) having died in infancy. I am told it is a common practice, if a child died in infancy, to give the next succeeding child, if of the same sex, the same name.

Anna Elizabeth (b. 1753), daughter of Matthias Roth and his wife Anna Elizabeth, married Peter Bastress of Pottsgrove. They lived at Fegleysville but later moved to Jonestown. They had three sons, Solomon, John, and Peter, Jr. Peter Bastress Jr. married a Miss Betz and lived near Fegleysville; they had four sons and four daughters: John, Solomon, Daniel, Peter, Eliza, Sarah, Loretta,

and Susanna. Sarah, daughter of Peter Bastress Jr. married William Hauberger (b. 1805 who was a brother to my grandmother Sophia who married Henry S. Leidy) on 26 January 1834, and whose only daughter, Louisa, married Samuel Barndt of Sumneytown. A son of William Hauberger and his wife Sarah, named Lucien, died when about ten years of age. Samuel Barndt and his wife Louisa also had a son named Lucien who died when about ten years of age; and another son named Harry who lives at Sumneytown.

Solomon Roth, youngest child of Matthias Roth and his wife Anna Elizabeth, was born 8 July 1757, and was baptized 16 October 1757 (New Hanover Lutheran Church Records). He lived on his father's farm in Colebrookdale Township, and at his father's death inherited one-half of the farm, consisting mostly of meadow land and woodland. Solomon married Elizabeth Kepler. He served as

a soldier in the Revolutionary War in the same company as his brother Jonathan 1777-1779 (Pennsylvania Archives, 3rd Series, Vol. 6, P. 275). Solomon Roth died 2 February 1798 and was buried at Amity.

Note: New Hanover Lutheran Church, also known as Swamp Church, was founded by Rev. Daniel Falckner in 1699. It is the oldest German Lutheran Church in the United States, and the mother Church of a number of congregations in this section, such as Hill Church and Trappe Church. Three log church buildings built at different periods antedated the present impressive stone structure which was erected in 1767. The Church building was used as a hospital for Continental soldiers during the Revolutionary War. The Church records were started in 1740.

Solomon Roth and his wife Elizabeth had four children: David was born about 1778

and married Anna Cathrina Schnell, who was born 20 February 1781, and died 15 December 1863 (Tombstone Union Church Cemetery); Magdalena was born in 1780, and was confirmed on Maundy Thursday in 1796 at age of sixteen (New Hanover Lutheran Church Records); Magdalena died in young womanhood; Mary was married to Adam Gresh; and Peter, born 8 December 1793, died 31 August 1795.

David Roth (b. 1778), son of Solomon Roth and his wife Elizabeth, who married Anna Cathrina Schnell, lived on his father's farm after Solomon's death and they had two sons and five daughters: Elizabeth, Rebecca, Maria (died in infancy), Solomon, Catherine, John, and Harriet. Elizabeth, daughter of David, married Samuel Spatz, and they had one son and four daughters: David Spatz, who married Esther Hittle, Angeline who married John Boyer, Susanna who married Hiram Burden, Catherine, and Esther. Re-

becca, daughter of David, married Jacob Reigner and they had two sons and two daughters: Hermina, James, Solomon, and Harriet. Catherine, daughter of David, married Peter Schearer and they had seven children: Mary Ann, Matilda, Sarah, Amanda, Emeline, Tamzan, and John who died in childhood. Harriet, daughter of David, married Israel R. Loucks, and they had seven children: John, Henry, Matilda, Benneville, Emma, William, and Mary Ann who died in childhood.

Solomon, son of David Roth (b. 1778), married Catherine Gilbert (a sister of Henry Gilbert who was the father of Mrs. William Stauffer). They had three children: David, Samuel, and Esther. According to R. B. Rhoads's records, Solomon drove a six-horse bell-team to Philadelphia weekly. On one trip he was killed in an accident. David, son of Solomon, died at an early age. Samuel, son of Solomon, was a Methodist preacher

in 1863 (R. B. Rhoads's records). Esther was born 5 March 1833, and was baptized 18 April 1833 (Union Church Records), the only record I have concerning her. After the death of Solomon his widow Catherine married a Drenkel of Reading, and when he died Catherine lived with Solomon's father, David, for a time and then married John Feary.

John, son of David Roth (b. 1778), married Mary Ann Yoder, and they had nine children: Percival, Tamzan, Matilda, Emma, Catherine, Mary Ann, Clara, Sarah, and Malinda. Percival was a soldier in the Union Army during the Civil War in 1863; Tamzan married a Miller; Matilda married a Holmes; Catherine married Abraham Schearer, and they had seven children; Mary Ann and Clara died in childhood; Sarah married William Sterner; Malinda married F. B. Geyer; Emma left her home in Morysville in young girlhood and went to live with Jonas

and Christina Hauberger at Pottstown, who had no children of their own. Emma married Thomas Hauberger, youngest brother of Jonas and lived in Philadelphia. They had two children: Sarah Christina and George. Sarah married William R. Grim and lived in Texarkana, Texas; they had two children, Emeline and Loretta. George married Ida White and lived in Philadelphia. After Thomas Hauberger's death Emma, his widow, married Mahlon Artman, of Philadelphia.

X

JONATHAN ROTH (RHOADS)

Jonathan Roth, son of Matthias Roth and his wife Anna Elizabeth, was born 8 March 1751. The name was changed from Roth to Rhoads, through successive variations of Rode, Road, Rhoad, and Roades in the pre-Revolutionary period due to English influence, as the British element predominated in the colonies and nearly all city and county officials including the scriveners who wrote deeds and other official documents were English speaking people. So also were an increasing number of school teachers. (See tax lists and other official records of the period.

I find also other family names arbitrarily changed, such as Yeager to Hunter, Fegley to Bird, Hoch to High, etc.) The alteration in the form of spelling the Roth family name is thus traceable to the caprice of petty officials who wrote indentures, kept registers, and taught English writing; and who substituted an English spelling in conformity with the practice in England of dealing with families of the same Germanic name who migrated across the Channel and became Anglicized. The change in spelling is to be deplored. It was the sacrifice of a birthright to foreign officious whim.

Jonathan Roth attended the New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church and was confirmed there by Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg on 22 May 1773, according to the Church Records. He was married on 21 March 1775, to Dorothea Elizabeth Linn, a sister to Governor John Hartranft's mother,

at St. Gabriel's Church at Molattan, now Douglassville. Dorothea Elizabeth Linn was born 12 December 1756.

Note: The church at Molattan was built by a colony of Swedes who early settled along the Schuylkill. Their religion was Lutheran, but their church organization differed from that of the Germans in that the Swedish Lutherans were governed by homeland Bishops, whilst the German Lutherans held to the system of parity of the clergy. The title "St. Gabriel's" is of Swedish application, as shown by an entry in the Church Records made in 1752. The church was of the Lutheran denomination from 1697 to 1765, in which latter year it was taken over by the Episcopalians following the influx of English, Irish, and Welsh colonists into the Molattan district and the exodus of many of the Swedes from there to Amity where they amalgamated with the Germans. The word Molattan is a corruption of the Indian name

of the creek known as the Manatawny which flowed nearby. The transition of the word in early records is noted as Manothanim, Manating, Morlatton, Malloting, and Molatton.

Jonathan Roth served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, Captain Stephen Crumrine's company, Colonel Daniel Udree's battalion, General Irvine's brigade, General Armstrong's Army of Pennsylvania Militia, which formed the left wing of Washington's Army at the Battle of Brandywine in September, 1777. (Pennsylvania Archives, 3rd series, Vol. 6, Pp. 275 and 295). This company also participated in the battle of Germantown in the following month, October 1777. Jonathan Roth was a member of this company and participated in its activities until 1780, although he was privileged to be absent on occasion to help his father in milling and for this grant he paid the required fines for absence from company exercise. (Penna. Ar-

chives, idem). It appears this was the method pursued for meeting the civil needs of production and at the same time provide funds for sustaining the Continental Army in view of General Washington's serious plight in dealing with a parsimonious Congress,—historians use the word “niggardly.” It is likely that the newly formed legislative body had troubles of its own in bringing about cohesive action and in voting generous allowances for the army amid the sectional jealousies that were early rife among the delegates assembled.

Jonathan Roth worked on his father's farm and as a miller, and in 1786 purchased from his father about one-half of the original farm, 106 acres, on which stood the grist mill and saw mill which his father Matthias had erected. Jonathan added to this acreage by purchase of land from Henry Stauffer, and was a successful miller and farmer.

Jonathan Roth and his wife Dorothea Elizabeth evidently in their later years attended the Union Church (Lutheran and Reformed) in the nearby village of Boyertown, as both were buried in the cemetery adjoining this Church, as were also two of their children, Jacob and Henry. Jonathan Roth died 3 September 1819, and Dorothea Elizabeth, his wife, died 16 April 1824.

Note: The Union Church, with its cemetery, at Boyertown, was built on an acre of land which Jacob Stauffer (1754-1839) gave or sold to the German Reformed and Lutheran congregations for a church and burying place. Jacob Stauffer was a Mennonite but his wife Susanna (Huff) belonged to the German Reformed Church. Jacob's father, Henry Stauffer (1725-1803), a Mennonite, had, at some previous time, sold to the Mennonite congregation at Boyertown, for nine pounds, an acre of land adjoining the Mennonite Meeting House at the corner of Phila-

delphia Road and Reading Road, where the National Bank building now stands, for use as a burying ground. The Union Church cemetery adjoined the Mennonite cemetery on Philadelphia Road. The Union Church dates from 1811, when the church was built, to 1872 when the Reformed congregation bought the property, tore down the old Church and built a new edifice in 1874, and the Lutheran congregation built a church one block distant on North Reading Avenue on land bought from Jeremiah Schaeffer.

In 1923 the remains of Jonathan Roth and his wife Dorothea Elizabeth, and of Jacob Roth their son, were disinterred and buried at Fairview Cemetery, Boyertown, Lot M147, by a descendant, William R. Grim, this action being made necessary by a projected addition to the Reformed Church which new building would encroach on that part of the burial ground. The grave of the son Henry still

remains in the Old Union Church Cemetery as its location in the rear of the church was not encroached upon by the new building.

Children of Jonathan Roth and his wife Dorothea Elizabeth: Jacob, Elizabeth, Anna Maria, Margaret, John, Hannah, Henry, and Catherine. John was my grandfather.

XI

Here is inserted what I know of Jonathan Roth's other children and their descendants before proceeding with John, my grandfather.

Jacob Roth, eldest son of Jonathan Roth and his wife Dorothea Elizabeth, was born 15 May 1776. He married Anna Margaret Kline about 1799 and they lived on a farm in Englesville which in later years became John Reigner's farm. They had ten children: Lydia (b. 1800), Daniel (b. 1801), Jacob (b. 1802), Hannah (b. 1804), a son, name unknown, who died in infancy (b. 1806), Catherine who died in infancy (b. 1807),

Dieter (b. 1810), Samuel (b. 1812), Rebecca (b. 1814), and Anna Maria (b. 1816). All these children, excepting those who died in infancy, had sons and daughters who lived near Keeler's Church, at Limerick, and at Barren Hill. Lydia married Bastian Buchert; Daniel married Catherine Yerger and afterwards Lydia Freyer; Jacob married Sarah Romich; Hannah married David Wise; Dieter married Elizabeth Brendlinger and afterwards Catherine Reifsnyder; Samuel was married twice but the names of his wives are unknown; Rebecca married Abraham Hauberger; and Anna Maria married John Peltz of Roxborough. Daniel Roth and his wife Catherine (Yerger), had seven children: Levinus married Catherine Rahn; Samuel married Rebecca Guldin; Lydia married Henry Spaetler and later John Yerger; John married Mary Kohler and later Mary Palm; Henry married Mary Fryer; Jacob married

Lovina Davidheiser; and Mary married Daniel Botz. David Wise and his wife Hannah (Roth) also had seven children: Jonathan married Charlotte Becker; Jacob married Sarah Becker; Joshua married Catherine Fillman; Frederick married Charlotte Fegley; Henry married Mary Miller; Maria married Henry Koplin; and David who died in early youth.

Jacob Roth died 29 February 1816 and was buried at Union Church Cemetery, Boyertown. His widow later married Jacob Kolb of Pottstown. She is buried at Limerick.

Elizabeth Roth, daughter of Jonathan Roth and his wife Dorothea Elizabeth, was born 18 September 1778, and was confirmed on Maundy Thursday, 1796, at the age of eighteen (New Hanover Lutheran Church Records). She married Dieter Geiger, a farmer, on 7 November 1796 (Hill Church Records), and they lived near Fegleysville. Dieter Geiger was born 22 July 1772. They

had two sons and two daughters: Jacob, Daniel, Elizabeth, and Catherine (born 8 November 1810). Elizabeth Geiger married William Brooke of Chester County. Catherine Geiger married John Brooke (born 30 August 1801) of Limerick Township and they lived on a farm there. John Brooke and his wife Catherine had six children: Emeline, born 2 April 1833; Mary Ann, born 11 March 1835; Elizabeth Ann, born 20 August 1837; Almina, born 17 August 1841; Leaman, born 12 April 1847; and Adaline, born 21 October 1852. Dieter Geiger, who married Elizabeth Roth, died 27 June 1837, and his wife Elizabeth died 6 April 1846.

Anna Maria Roth, daughter of Jonathan Roth and his wife Dorothea Elizabeth, was born in 1780 and was confirmed on Maundy Thursday, 1796, at the age of sixteen (New Hanover Lutheran Church Records). She married Christian Shaner and they lived on a farm at Boyertown. They had three chil-

dren: Elizabeth, born 22 January 1812, baptized 7 October 1812; Samuel, born 9 May 1817, baptized 15 May 1817; Frederick, born 7 February 1822, baptized 5 May 1822 (Union Church Records).

Margaret Roth, daughter of Jonathan Roth and his wife Dorothea Elizabeth, was born 2 February 1784, baptized 31 May 1784 (Hill Church Records). She married Abraham Wartman and lived on a farm above New Berlinville. They had three children: Sara, born 1 August 1819, baptized 26 September 1819; Elizabeth, born 19 February 1822, baptized 8 April 1822; and Rachel, born 29 September 1824, baptized 4 April 1825 (Union Church Records).

Hannah Roth, daughter of Jonathan Roth and his wife Dorothea Elizabeth, died in youth.

Catherine Roth, daughter of Jonathan Roth and his wife Dorothea Elizabeth, was born 5 March 1792, and died 11 May 1859.

She married Mathias Ritter and lived on a farm above New Berlinville. They had six children: Sarah, born 29 March 1812, baptized 31 May 1812; Isau, born 2 September 1817, baptized 30 September 1817; William, born 27 September 1818, baptized 23 November 1818; Charles, born 19 January 1820, baptized 9 April 1820; Catherina, born 27 November 1823, baptized 3 April 1824; and Maria, born 12 May 1831 baptized 17 July 1831 (Union Church Records).

Henry Roth, the youngest son of Jonathan Roth and his wife Dorothea Elizabeth, was born 18 May 1795, and died 3 August 1856; he married Elizabeth Schaeffer who was born 28 September 1790, and died 2 May 1868 (dates from Tombstones, Union Church Cemetery). They lived on a farm East of Boyertown, near Gilbertsville. They had three children: Elam, Jacob, and Samuel. Elam was born 23 November 1821 and died 10 January 1887. Elam married a Bechtel,

and they lived on a farm part of which became incorporated in the eastern part of the borough of Boyertown. Elam was also a millwright. They had one son who died in early childhood. Elam was hardworking and thrifty, and a philanthropist at his death, benefitting many individuals and the town. Jacob, son of Henry, was born 14 October 1823, and died 4 June 1901. He married Rachel Schmel, and they lived on his father's farm east of Boyertown. They had five children: Henry, William, Jacob, Morris, and Elizabeth. Samuel, son of Henry (1795-1856), was born 10 September 1827, and died 26 July 1851. He was a carpenter by trade. (Dates from tombstones, Union Church Cemetery).

XII

JOHN RHOADS

John Rhoads, my grandfather, son of Jonathan Roth and his wife Dorothea Elizabeth, was born 28 June 1788. He was raised on his father's farm, part of which he inherited on his father's death in 1819 and to which he added by purchase of adjoining land. The mill property and surroundings had previously been sold by Jonathan Roth to Mathias Ritter who had married Catherine Roth, a daughter of Jonathan and sister of John. The farm of John Rhoads laid on both sides of the Reading road and extended

from Ironstone creek to the Phoenix mine, now abandoned. Part of this farm is now within the limits of the borough of Boyertown. When the railroad was built from Pottstown in 1869 it cut through the farm. In addition to farming John Rhoads operated an iron ore mine on his property, a saw mill, cider press, blacksmith shop, whiskey distillery, and manufactured brick, and for a time he ran a general store in the building that later became the American House (N. W. corner of Reading Avenue and Third Street). The last venture was a failure and he soon gave it up. The mine was operated in later years by his heirs under the firm name of John Rhoads Mining Company. John Rhoads married Catherine K. Boyer, daughter of Henry Boyer, founder of Boyertown, on 13 December 1818, when she was fifteen years of age (New Hanover Lutheran Church Records). The marriage proved a happy one.

They had thirteen children, nine of whom reached ripe old age.

Henry Boyer, father of Catherine K. Boyer who married John Rhoads, was a descendant of George Bayer who came from Grunstadt, in the Palatinate, Germany, when five years of age with his uncle Christopher Bayer and arrived at Philadelphia 11 September 1731. They settled in Frederick Township. George Bayer was born 23 July 1726, and died 23 April 1792. His wife Catherine was born 10 January 1734, and died 10 February 1826. Their children were Henry, George, Anthony, William, Jacob, Catherine, and Elizabeth. Three of the sons were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, including Jacob, my ancestor.

Jacob Bayer, son of George Bayer and his wife Catherine, was born in August 1754, and died 11 February 1796. Jacob Bayer was a soldier in the Revolutionary War (Penn-

sylvania Archives, 6th series, Vol. 3, p. 668). He married Catherine Schantz and they lived at Perkiomenville. Their children were Jacob, Henry, Samuel, Daniel, Magdalene, Catherine, Susannah, Elizabeth, John, Philip, and a girl, name unknown.

Henry Boyer (name changed from Bayer), son of Jacob Bayer and his wife Catherine, was born 19 October 1778, and died 18 March 1857. He married Sarah Krebs 3 March 1800, who was born 28 February 1784, and died 7 July 1858. When a young man of seventeen Henry Boyer moved to Colebrookdale Township in 1795 and bought land from Henry Stauffer who was the owner of a large tract he had secured in 1769. Henry Boyer built a log tavern at the crossroad of Reading Road and Philadelphia Road, which tavern became a stage terminus, where horses were changed and stabled, for the lines running to Reading, Philadelphia, Pottstown, and Kutztown by way of

Pleasantville. A village soon developed in the neighborhood which in early annals was known as "Boyers." An attempt was made to incorporate the village as a borough in 1851 with the name Boyertown but it was not until 1866 that the effort was successful. The present brick hotel on the old log tavern site was built by William S. Binder who became the owner of the property in the early 1840's.

Note: The Philadelphia road did not start at present Boyertown but coursed northwest from this point over the hill at present Gabelsville farther into the Oley hills. A draft made from a survey on 18-19 March 1771 outlining the Jacob Latshaw and Henry Gabel tracts above present Gabelsville, shows the "Road to Philadelphia," so marked, running through these tracts and passing the Potts house farther east. As this house, still standing at Gabelsville, with its attractive Colonial fireplace and its twenty-four panes

to each ordinary sized window, was built by Thomas Potts in 1736, on a road, the Philadelphia road must have been in use for some years prior to that date. The earliest map of Berks County showing this road, so far as is known (Richards map, 1816), has the road running from "Boyers" through "Gabels" to the intersecting road at Oley Forge, which was located near the present town of Friedensburg (Oley P. O.).

Henry Boyer besides being a popular hotel keeper and a large land owner in the vicinity, as well as the founder of the town, was also active in politics and served as a member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature for five years between 1824 and 1832. He was the owner of the famous trotting horse Dan Patch. Henry built a large stone house in Boyertown on the site where Grim's business block now stands and in this home he and his wife Sarah reared their large family and spent their declining years. Their chil-

dren were Michael K., Catherine K., Elizabeth, Sarah, Henry K., Jacob K., Hannah, Maria, Caroline, and Angeline.

All Henry Boyer's children, with the exception of Catherine K., as they grew up moved to other localities. Michael K. married Rebecca Pelman and lived in Reading; Elizabeth married John Griesemer and later John Weidner and lived in Oley; Sarah married Jacob Allebach and lived in Orwigsburg; Henry K. married Elizabeth Schilling and lived in Reading; Jacob K. married Lucy Ludwig and lived in Oley; Hannah married Dr. Charles Sellers and lived in Altoona; Maria married Marshall B. Campbell and lived in Michigan; Caroline married George Huff and lived in Greensburg; and Angeline married Rev. Frederick W. Dechant and lived in Pennsburg. The progeny of the Founder thus was limited locally to the descendants of his daughter Catherine K. who married John Rhoads. The present family of

Boyer in Boyertown is descended from Daniel Boyer (1782-1869) and his son Daniel B. Boyer (1814-1892), the elder of whom when a young man, laid the foundation of a general merchandising business and eventual large property ownership by dispensing small amounts of tea, coffee, and sundries from a corner cupboard in the public room of his brother Henry Boyer's log tavern.

While my grandfather John Rhoads died ten years before I was born I always had the feeling of having known him, from hearing my father and his brothers and sisters discuss him freely and often, particularly at their semi-annual reunions, which festive reunions were held with regularity during my childhood and youth. The places of meeting were in rotation in the homes of the nine living children of John Rhoads within my memory. At these times all the descendants of the various families attended if they possibly could,

from far and near, including children of all ages; and there was much merrymaking, and recital of family history and lore by the elders. The center of attention at these meetings was my beloved grandmother, Catherine Rhoads, until her death on 11 September 1883, caused by a fall down the cellar steps of her home at Boyertown, fracturing her skull.

The lasting impression I got of my grandfather Rhoads from listening to these many discussions of his traits and character was that he was a man highly respected for his fairness and uprightness and integrity, both by his family and by others who knew him and had dealings with him; a man firm in his convictions, but considerate of the feelings of others; hardworking and thrifty, but generous in the needs of his large family; unassuming with neighbors, and hospitable to strangers who often stopped in passing to accept food and shelter for the night; a man

quiet in demeanor, but radiating strength and confidence; systematic in his habits and in the conduct of his farm; clean-minded and clean-lived; devout and regular in church attendance and religious observance; and unquestionably honest. One expression that stuck to me all my life heard at these conversations between my uncles and aunts, and that left an inspiring impression, was "Der vater war ufrichtig" (upright). I decided to live up to that traditional appraisal.

I used to study frequently the photographed features of my grandfather during my boyhood, a picture made in the late 1850's, with his serious face and eyes looking straight to the front, showing confidence and a depth of kindness and understanding; and his firm jaw, high forehead, close lying ears, large straight nose, full and set lips; with the lines of middle age on his face but no evidence of uncertainty or worry; and dressed in his white rolling collar and shirt, black

silk stock and waistcoat, and black cloth coat with broad lapels. It used to give me assurance that I was of such stock, and that possibly some day I might have the same confident look. When I got to know my father better as I grew up I realized that those same features and traits had been transmitted to him and I wondered what the future had in store for me.

John Rhoads was devoted to his family and closely attached to his children, who loved him. He was tender in his relations with them and never exercised corporal punishment but his word in all matters was final and was so accepted. Chastisement was left to the mother but she was always fair, if strict, according to my uncles and aunts, and her children were devoted to her all through life. I gathered it was an unusually happy, busy, and hard-working family.

I give here an extract from R. B. Rhoads's records concerning his father:

“John Rhoads was of medium stature, heavy and powerfully built, had brown eyes and brown hair which had not turned gray at the time of his death. He had sound teeth and did not lose any; he had a prominent nose and a broad high forehead. He was a prosperous farmer and was respected as an upright man by his family and neighbors. His manner was somewhat gruff; he had a sober and serious mien, and seldom laughed. He was saving and took good care of his money.”

Of my grandmother Catherine Rhoads I cannot speak too highly. She was universally loved and respected by those who knew her and that meant the whole community. She was one of the busy and helpful people of this world but not a busy-body. Besides having thirteen children of her own and raising her family as the best of mothers would, she always found time to help out people in the neighborhood in sickness or distress, even

helping in childbirth and sewing up wounds when doctors were not obtainable. She had considerable knowledge of home remedies and many people sought her advice for current ailments in their families. For years it was her practice every spring and fall to spend part of a day in the woods and fields, accompanied by her children and later by her grandchildren, gathering plants and herbs to be dried and made ready for steeping and administration in different illnesses. I believe it was this training which induced two of her sons to become physicians.

John Rhoads died 4 July 1860, and his wife Catherine, born 22 January 1803, died 11 September 1883. Both were buried at Fairview Cemetery, Boyertown, Lot B-9.

Children: Jonathan, Henry B., Benneville B., Rebecca Loretta, Sarah, Dorothea Elizabeth, Mahella, Reuben B., Julius, Catherine, Thomas J. B., Emma Matilda, and Angeline.

Thomas was my father.

The following is a copy of the Union Church Records, Boyertown, of the children of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine:

	<i>Born</i>	<i>Baptized</i>
Jonathan	19 Jan. 1820 –	9 Apr. 1820
Henry Boyer	2 Nov. 1821 –	1 Jun. 1822
Benneville	18 Nov. 1823 –	8 Feb. 1824
Rebecca Loretta	22 Aug. 1825 –	16 Oct. 1825
Sarah	11 Feb. 1827 –	13 Apr. 1827
Dorothea Elizabeth	3 Sep. 1828 –	9 Nov. 1828
Mahella	21 Jan. 1830 –	25 Apr. 1830
Reuben	29 Oct. 1831 –	1 Jan. 1832
Julius	9 Jan. 1834 –	23 Mar. 1834
Catherine Ann	23 Sep. 1835 –	25 Dec. 1835
James Jefferson	26 Sep. 1837 –	3 Dec. 1837
Emma Matilda	2 Mar. 1839 –	20 May 1839
Angeline	7 May 1841 –	11 Jul. 1841

Three dates of birth on the above list were incorrectly entered on the Church Record. The correct dates, taken from John Rhoads's family bible, are: Jonathan, born 28 January 1820; Rebecca Loretta, born 21 August 1825; and Mahella, born 3 February 1830.

XIII

Here is recorded certain information on John Rhoads's other children before completing this record with an account of my father, Thomas J. B. Rhoads.

Jonathan Rhoads, eldest son of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 28 January 1820, and died 15 January 1872. He was heavily built and robust like his father. He was successively a foreman on his father's farm; a school teacher at Boyertown and Englesville; a surveyor and conveyancer; landlord of the Keystone Hotel, Boyertown (hotel built on land bought from Henry Boyer); landlord of the Great West-

ern Hotel, Market Street, Philadelphia; and clerk in the office of Attorney B. Frank Boyer, Reading. He built a home, three story, at the southwest corner of Front (now Third) and Chestnut Streets, Boyertown. "He was open-hearted, honest, sober and upright" (R. B. Rhoads). He married Hannah Ruth and had three children: Michael Albert, Verdilla, and Emma. Michael became a prominent surgeon in Reading.

Henry B. Rhoads, son of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 2 November 1821, and died 18 August 1893. "He was hard-working and industrious, and an apt scholar" (R. B. Rhoads). During the latter years of his father's life, Henry managed the farm. Later he worked in the mines at Boyertown, earning good wages and saved money. He was somewhat of a politician and held various offices: Constable, Justice of the Peace, Notary, was the first Clerk of the borough when Boyertown was incorporated

in 1866, and was a member of the State Legislature. "He was fair and upright in all his dealings, but too open-handed and lost a lot of money loaned to politicians" (R. B. Rhoads). On the death of his brother Jonathan, Henry went to Reading as clerk in the office of Attorney B. Frank Boyer, remaining there until the latter's death, when he again moved to Boyertown and went into partnership with his brother Dr. Thomas J. B. Rhoads on a contract to haul ore from the mines to the railroad wharf opposite the depot in Boyertown. The business was carried on until 1886, when they relinquished it.

Henry married Tamzan, a daughter of George Gilbert, 28 April 1844. They lived and died in the home bought from John Rhoads's estate at the south end of Reading Avenue in Boyertown.

Children: Irvin, Emma E., Oliver, Sarah, Mary, and Richard.

Benneville B. Rhoads, son of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born on 18 November 1823, and died 10 May 1848 from pulmonary tuberculosis which was ascribed as due to a fall from a ladder while picking apples four years before his death. After the fall he ever afterwards complained of pain in his chest—possibly a traumatic pleurisy. He was always considered to be exceptionally intelligent and brilliant minded. “He was six feet tall, slender, dark complexion, jocular, and had a fiery temper” (R. B. Rhoads). He was long a bugler in Jacob K. Boyer’s Company of Washington Greys. Benneville was unmarried.

Rebecca Loretta Rhoads, daughter of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 21 August 1825, and died 4 August 1906. She was married to William K. Grim on 11 June 1853. “She worked on her father’s farm doing the customary girls’ work in the fields during hay making and harvesting, cut

corn, helped in husking, and picked apples. Later she taught school at New Berlinville for several terms. She was industrious and kind-hearted, modest and unassuming, correct and upright in deportment, and had a strong and healthy constitution" (R. B. Rhoads). She lived on the Grim farm above Gabelsville after her marriage, where William K. Grim also had a grist mill and a tannery. They had four children, all of whom were born on the farm. In 1874 William K. Grim and his family moved to Boyertown in the palatial home they built on Reading Avenue on land bought from Henry Boyer.

Children: Mahella, Sarah, William and Catherine Esther.

Sarah Rhoads, daughter of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 11 February 1827 and died 18 January 1892. She was married to William Bird, a prosperous horse dealer who made frequent trips to the west and bought carloads of horses to be sold in

the Philadelphia market. "Sarah was a dutiful, kind and efficient woman" (R. B. Rhoads). During the latter years of her life she was afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis which painfully affected the joints of her hands. In the 1870s Sarah Bird had a dry goods store at the northeast corner of Philadelphia Avenue and Chestnut Street, Boyertown, in which her daughters acted as sales clerks. (This store later became C. A. Mory's Dry Goods Store, then Bahr & Weller's, then J. H. Weller's, now Olivia Weller's store).

Children: Mary, Sarah, Isabella and Clara.

Dorothea Elizabeth Rhoads, daughter of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 3 September 1828, and died 17 December 1909. She was married to Charles B. Weaver on 23 September 1853. Her husband was a lawyer and highly intellectual, who practiced in a western city for a time but could not stand the climate so returned to

Berks County to regain his health and became one of the county's leading attorneys. He acted as Superintendent in his father's (William Weaver) foundry, the Colebrookdale foundry, one mile from Boyertown on the Pottstown road. Charles Weaver lost his life while experimenting with shells filled with explosive being planned for the use of the Union Army, one of which exploded prematurely, a fragment lodging in his brain. He died 22 September 1861. Dorothea Elizabeth lived with her mother afterwards, in the quaint wooden cottage which her mother had built on Front (now Third) Street in Boyertown after the death of John Rhoads in 1860, on land bought from Henry Boyer.

Children: Millard Filmore, John Randolph, Mary Ida, William Ripley, and Nina.

Mahella Rhoads, daughter of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 3 February 1830, and died 31 March 1917.

She was married to Daniel McCormick of Pottstown. "Mahella was jovial in nature, always lively, loved fun, and was a ready talker." (R. B. Rhoads). She was always the life of the party at the Rhoads Family Reunions. Mahella retained her health and spirits to a ripe old age.

Children: Horace R. (Auditor of the P. & R. R. R.) and William H. (Assistant General Passenger Agent, P. & R. R. R.).

Reuben B. Rhoads, son of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 29 October 1831, and died 7 October 1921. He was married to Kate Gilbert, daughter of Adam Gilbert, a son of George Gilbert. Reuben was "sickly as a child but at puberty his health improved greatly" (according to his own records), and he developed a strong wiry physique which carried him through in good health to within three weeks of ninety years. He outlived all his brothers

and sisters. As a youth he worked on his father's farm, and taught school in winter. He studied medicine with Dr. H. W. Johnson at Boyertown, and entered Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1855, graduating in 1857. He practiced medicine at Zieglersville, Montgomery County, until the fall of 1862, when he entered the Union Army as Assistant Surgeon, and acting Surgeon of the 169th Pennsylvania Regiment of Infantry. He joined the regiment at Pittsburgh, on 1 December 1862, accompanying it to Gloucester Point, opposite Yorktown, Virginia. He was in charge of the hospital at that station, was later made Brigade Surgeon, and the hospital was enlarged to a Brigade Hospital. He accompanied troops in campaign on the Peninsula, and toward Gettysburg in an effort to head off General Lee, who however had escaped across the river into Virginia. He was mustered out 27 July 1863, on expiration of nine months'

service. He returned to Zieglersville and practiced medicine there until 4 August 1864, when he moved to Amity, where he practiced medicine until 1882, carrying on a tree nursery business at the same time. He then moved to Reading where he became Warden of the Berks County Prison until 1885. He moved to Boyertown in 1886 and lived in his home on South Reading Avenue which adjoined his natal home, carrying on a lumber and coal business nearby until 1893, when he retired. He then built a brick house on South Reading Avenue, corner Apple Street, and lived there until his death. He maintained a lively interest in the welfare of the town and was elected Burgess, and served as School Director for several terms.

Children: Benjamin J., Laura K., Mary Ella and John G. (twins), and Maggie E.

Julius Rhoads, son of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 9 January 1834, and died in infancy.

Catherine Rhoads, daughter of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 23 September 1835, and died 31 May 1900. She was married to Charles Bird, brother to William Bird who married her sister Sarah Rhoads. They resided in Philadelphia for a while after marriage, then moved to Boyertown where Charles Bird became proprietor of the William Penn Hotel at the railroad (later the Mansion House). Charles Bird died in 1872. Catherine afterwards married Richard Smith and they kept a hotel at Barto, which was then a busy place as the terminus of the recently opened Colebrookdale Railroad, with its heavy traffic especially in iron ore. Catherine later bought the Anna Neidig home on South Reading Avenue near the Phoenix mine, and lived there until her death. "She was kind, agreeable, somewhat quick tempered, and hospitable" (R. B. Rhoads). Catherine was unusually comely as a girl and retained her good looks through woman-

hood, transmitting them to her children, particularly to her daughter Elizabeth (Mrs. William H. Yost).

Children: Charles, Anna, Henry, Amanda, Mary, Eve, and Elizabeth.

Emma Matilda Rhoads, daughter of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 2 March 1839 and died 29 August 1841, at two and a half years of age from drowning in the spring at her parents' home. She had whooping cough at the time and it was thought she fell into the spring at the rear of the house during a fit of coughing.

Angeline Rhoads, youngest child of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 7 May 1841 and died 13 February 1916. She was married to Solomon Erb 6 October 1863. As a girl she worked on her father's farm doing the customary work assigned to girls of a farmer's family in the home and in the fields. "She was cheerful and good natured, an excellent cook and housekeeper, radiating

happiness and cheer to those about her. She had a fine singing voice and with her sister Catherine and her brothers Reuben and Thomas formed a quartet of excellent song ability" (R. B. Rhoads). Solomon Erb and his wife Angeline lived on the John Rhoads farm and operated the farm for several years subsequent to John Rhoads's death. They then moved to a farm at Linfield which they farmed for about five years, then in 1870 to a farm in the suburbs of Pottstown where they lived until 1878 when they moved to Boyertown and Solomon was employed in the Cigar Factory of his brother, David S. Erb.

Children: Kate, Ella, Sallie, David, John, Solomon, Edwin and Laura.

XIV

THOMAS J. B. RHOADS

Thomas Jefferson Boyer Rhoads, youngest son of John Rhoads and his wife Catherine, was born 26 September 1837, and was baptized 3 December 1837 with the name of James. In youth he became a great admirer of the Framers of the Constitution and changed his name to Thomas. He also disliked the nickname Jim—an antipathy probably based on association. He worked on his father's farm until he became of age, attending pay school during the winter months at the eight-cornered school house in Boyertown

and later at Mount Pleasant Seminary, and teaching school for four terms at different times at Gabelsville, Weisstown, and New Berlinville. He studied medicine in the meantime under the tutelage of Dr. Henry W. Johnson and his brother Dr. Reuben B. Rhoads, and entered Jefferson Medical College in the fall of 1858, graduating in the spring of 1861. He began practicing medicine at Gilbertsville, Montgomery County, 23 May 1861. He was married to Theresa F. Leidy, daughter of Captain Henry S. Leidy and Sophia (Hauberger) Leidy, on 10 May 1862. Theresa was born on 2 January 1840.

Captain Henry S. Leidy, father of Theresa, received his title as commander of a light horse troop known as Washington Troop composed of over one hundred mounted members, which was organized in

the late 1850's, and was outfitted in gray uniforms like that worn by General George Washington. This troop held frequent battalion drills at Frederick, Zieglersville, Sumneytown, Gilbertsville, and neighboring villages in Montgomery County. Dr. R. B. Rhoads, who practiced medicine at Zieglersville at the time, was surgeon of the troop, and two youths, Thomas H. Leidy and Hiram Hauberger, were color bearers. The troop was broken up after several years of existence due to the enlistment of many of its members in the Union Army, mostly in the cavalry.

Captain Henry S. Leidy was a descendant of Rev. John Philip Leydich (1715-1784) and his wife Maria Catharina Homrighausen (1721-1801) who came to America from Girkhausen, Westphalia, Germany, on 15 September 1748, and settled in Frederick Township, Montgomery County, where Rev. Leydich became pastor of the Swamp Re-

formed church, as well as a farmer of one hundred and five acres of land which he purchased from Conrad Frick in 1749. Rev. Leydich's children were Franz, Elizabeth Gertrude, Maria Magdalena, Sophia, Catherine, Philip, and Leonard. Franz and Philip were soldiers in the Revolutionary War.

Philip Leydig (1755-1822), name copied from tombstone at the old Leidy burying ground on the ancestral farm, son of Rev. John Philip Leydich and his wife Maria Catharina, married Rosina Bucher (1760-1849). Their children were Samuel, Sophia, Elizabeth, Catherine, and Sarah.

Samuel Leidig (1790-1873), name copied from tombstone old Leidy burying ground, married Hannah Schwenk (1793-1857) and their children were Henry S., Sophia, Daniel, Philip, Sarah, Peter, Hannah, Jesse, Samuel Jr., and a girl of unknown name who died in childhood.

Henry S. Leidy (1815-1899), name changed to present spelling, son of Samuel Leidig and his wife Hannah married Sophia Theresa Hauberger (1817-1893). Their children were Theresa Fayette, who was my mother, and Thomas Hauberger Leidy, both born in Philadelphia where Henry S. Leidy had a grocery store at Fifth and Poplar Streets for about ten years, after which he returned to Frederick, Montgomery County, and operated a general store. Thomas H. Leidy became a physician and practiced in Boyertown and Reading, and married Leah Kemmerer. A child, Thomas K. Leidy, an Attorney in Reading, married Frances Weiss.

The Civil War being in progress in 1862 and the demand for Volunteers urgent, Dr. Thomas J. B. Rhoads entered the service from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on 22 October, after passing the State Medical Examining Board at Harrisburg, and was com-

missioned Assistant Surgeon for nine months service in the 169th Pennsylvania Regiment of Infantry with rank of First Lieutenant. He joined the Regiment at Gloucester Point, opposite Yorktown, and was on duty at Gloucester Point and at Yorktown until June 1863. He served in expeditions to Gloucester Court House, Virginia, 7 April 1863, and to Walkertown and Ayletts, Virginia, 4 June 1863; in General Dix's Peninsular Campaign in Virginia 27 June to 7 July 1863; and in an engagement at Baltimore Crossroads, Virginia, 2 July 1863. He was ordered to Washington, D. C. 9 July 1863 for orders and then proceeded to Funkstown, Maryland, and joined the Army of the Potomac which was in pursuit of the Confederate Army retreating from Gettysburg. Later he was ordered to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on expiration of his term of service, and was honorably discharged 27 July 1863.

After service in the army Dr. Thomas J. B. Rhoads returned to Boyertown and bought out the practice of his preceptor, Dr. Henry W. Johnson, who had died, and located in the Johnson house on Reading Avenue. In 1869 he built his own home at the northwest corner of Philadelphia Avenue and Chestnut Street, in which he conducted a drug store in connection with his practice until 1885. He continued in the practice of medicine until 1913, (fifty-two years) when he retired from active practice due to disablement from severe attacks of rheumatism brought on by exposure in the exacting duties of a country practice.

His interest in public affairs led him to be Burgess, Councilman, and School Director. He was President of the National Bank of Boyertown, 1874-1883; President of the Farmers National Bank of Boyertown, 1883-1919; President of the Boyertown Building and Loan Association; Treasurer of the

Boyertown Mutual Fire Insurance Company; Treasurer of the John Rhoads Mining Company; Treasurer of the Friendship Hook and Ladder Company; Post Commander of General George Crook Post, G. A. R.; and a member of the Loyal Legion and of various Medical and Historical Societies. He contributed many articles on medical topics and on local history and folklore to magazines and newspapers, and wrote several books of poems—"Onkel Jeff's Poems."

My boyhood with my father was one of close companionship. He romped with me, played ball, taught me to ride, swim, and fish, and to work methodically, and took me for walks on Sunday afternoons to explain plant life in the woods. I often accompanied him on his visits to patients around the countryside in his large practice—he kept four horses for the purpose—and eagerly listened to his tales of local history on these trips which he

seemed to delight in telling. He was essentially a sympathetic part of the community in all his thoughts, and always doted on its progress, and looked to its welfare. His energy seemed endless, both physical and mental, and through the years I used to marvel at his endurance—every day a busy day occupied as he was in his many occupations, from five in the morning until nine at night at which hour he invariably retired; but he would often be called out at night in all kinds of weather to the homes of sick people, and disturbed rest and loss of sleep did not seem to affect him. I learned in after years by my own experience that ministration to the needs of the seriously sick has its own sustaining influence.

Although my father was powerfully built and very strong, he was also very agile and could vault high fences without apparent effort. When he was in the early forties and

I past ten he could beat me running although I could out-distance boys of my own age and older. He enjoyed engaging in occasional contests involving display of physical strength, such as lifting heavy weights or scything the longest row in the meadow without stopping, in which no one in the neighborhood could excel him, but he also had fine sensibilities and a highly coordinated and keen mind, so that he grasped situations sympathetically and quickly. He had schooled himself in thoroughness in the mastery of details and fundamentals, so that when he undertook any new project, such as banking or building construction, in addition to keeping abreast with the newer developments in medicine and surgery, he soon displayed discerning knowledge. This ability, combined with his recognized integrity, gained the confidence of people and made him a recognized authority in the affairs of the community, in government,

banking, building, business, education, history, and literature, as well as in medicine and surgery. He had many friends and admirers in high places in the County and State who would visit and consult with him. Given wider opportunity he too would have creditably filled high position in State or Nation. On their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1912 the President of the United States sent father and mother a cordial message of greeting.

I give here an extract from the records of R. B. Rhoads in reference to my father:

"A man of sterling worth, exceptional business and professional ability, highly regarded in the community; industrious, energetic, well-organized in mind and body; temperate and regular in habits, did not drink, smoke, or use tobacco in any form; frugal and saving, and amassed considerable property; public spirited and charitable."

As I grew into manhood and was away from home preparing for and engaging in life's work I gradually lost the close association I had had with my father,—he with increasing business responsibilities and I struggling to make good in other fields,—so that in succeeding years my mother became the closer tie in the family. My sister had died in young womanhood after a brief illness and my mother, strongly attached as she was to my sister, grieved deeply. This was followed by a long spell of illness that confined my mother to bed for over a year, and I returned home to take care of her. When she recovered and I was again free to venture forth in my chosen work, I left with a feeling of attachment all the stronger for my efforts in her behalf. In the future when I returned to visit my parents, as I frequently did when opportunity offered, I was glad to see my father and had pride in his accomplishments, but I was more solicitous for my mother.

Father and mother were perfect complements of each other and their long married life was filled with contentment and joy in their association. They were an inspiration to each other. Mother was somewhat emotional and impulsive, father had an unfailing serenity; mother was dainty and had small beautifully modeled features, with lustrous dark brown hair and dark brown eyes, father was a massive blond; mother was a home-body immersed in the duties of rearing her children and in the work of maintaining an immaculately tidy house from cellar to garret, father was absorbed with his practice and in his numerous business ventures; mother was highly particular in the selection of friends and trusted confidants, father was gregarious; mother had a liking for finery in clothes and in home furnishings, father was satisfied with plain substantial things along traditional standards; yet mother was an ideal helpmeet, and always consider-

ate of father's busy life; she expected delays and interference with household routine, and knew how to give encouragement and assurance to waiting patients. And how she could cook and bake! Known for her culinary skill people came frequently for her recipes but seldom could match her methods. We reveled in her tasteful products and I have not found their equal since.

Father and mother both reached mature age,—each passing the eighties. Dr. Thomas J. B. Rhoads died on 23 December 1919, and Theresa F. Rhoads died on 13 March 1923. Both are buried on the hill overlooking the town in Fairview Cemetery, Boyertown, Lot E26.

Children: Ellen Olivia, Henry Calvin, Katie Nora, and Thomas Leidy (writer of this memoir).

